

## News from SALEM COUNTY

Office of Public Information

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## COUNTY CONSIDERS IMPROVEMENTS TO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

(SALEM, NJ)—Freeholder Deputy Director David T. Lindenmuth, Chair of the County Public Safety and Shared Services Committee, today announced that the County is currently considering initiating a study regarding potential improvements to the emergency medical services (EMS).

"Our emergency responders are a vital part of Salem County," said Deputy Director Lindenmuth. "We are considering this study because we want to make sure that our emergency services have all the resources they need to address the needs of our residents. When lives are at stake, streamlining is not just a goal—it must be a reality. Accordingly, we have reached out to our municipalities to see if there is an interest in this topic. Our goal is to facilitate a dialogue on this matter, examine best practices, and if needed implement a strategy that works for Salem County."

One of the proposed practices in this arena is regionalizing EMS which is a concept that has been implemented widely in many counties throughout the United States and closer to home—Gloucester County. Regionalization erases invisible borders between municipalities and will allow the closest ambulance to a patient the ability of quickly responding to an emergency call.

"Regionalization is one suggestion; however, there may be a better model for our County's needs," said Deputy Director Lindenmuth. "In Salem County, we have very dedicated and talented volunteer emergency medical technicians (EMTs) who are a crucial part of our County's response team. Their input from the front lines will be invaluable in this process of deciding what works best for Salem County. One thing is clear and that is response times need to improve and to this end we will work. There is no agenda except to save lives and improve services."

Once the County receives ample interest from municipalities, the Board of Chosen Freeholder's will consider approving a study which will be completed in cooperation with first responders and municipalities. The study will be conducted by the Executive Director of the Department of Emergency Services, Jeff Pompper, and the County Shared Services Coordinator, Margaret Maxwell-Mood.



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"If we engage in this study, it will be transparent and invite all the appropriate parties to the table to look for ways of improving EMS services," said Deputy Director Lindenmuth.